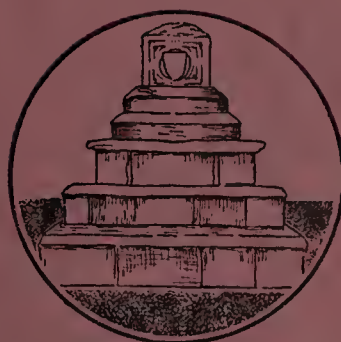


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MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Committee

Chairman - T. H. Ellingham

A. J. Goss  
S. G. Green  
A. E. Morton  
H. A. Orbell  
M. Robinson  
E. Smith

Medical Officer of Health

P. Herdman, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Town Hall, March. Telephone: March 2331.

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

Miss. J. Band.

## THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1958, together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

The year has seen considerable progress both in the provision of housing accommodation and in the subsidiary sewer scheme. The housing situation has been tackled in three ways, building new houses, continuation of the slum clearance programme and thorough examination by the Housing Committee of the waiting list for council houses. It has become clear that the number of people in the town who are in definite need of rehousing is quite small.

With regard to the subsidiary sewers, when completed probably in 1959 or early 1960 these will finish the Council's system of sewers for the main residential areas. It is hoped householders who have not already done so will connect to the sewers as soon as they are able to.

My views on smoking and lung cancer are included in the report.

I wish to record my thanks to the chairman and members of the public health committee for their interest and support, and to my colleagues on the council's staff, particularly the public health inspector, for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. HERDMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

#### General Statistics

Area in acres. . . . .	19,786
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for 1958)	13,210
Number of inhabited houses . . . . .	4,631
Number of houses owned by the Council . . . . .	830
Rateable Value . . . . .	£144,129
Amount represented by 1d. rate (1957/8) . . . . .	£565. 18. 4d

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population increased by 80 to 13,210. The main employment is either industrial on the railway, large marshalling yards being situated within the district boundary, or agricultural the surrounding farm land being rich and fertile.



## Vital Statistics

Live births.	. . . .	Male	86		
		Female	91	Total	177
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .	. . . .				13.39
Still-births	. . . .	Male	4		
		Female	-	Total	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	. . . .				22.09
Total live and still-births	. . . .	Male	90		
		Female	91	Total	181
Infant deaths	. . . .	Male	2		
		Female	1	Total	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	. . . .				16.95
Neo natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .	. . . .				11.29
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	. . . .				5.08
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .	. . . .				Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	. . . .				Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population .	. . . .				10.4

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	8	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	12	19
Coronary disease, angina	19	7	26
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart diseases	12	11	23
Other circulatory diseases	3	3	6
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	-	1	1
	73	65	138

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	2.17
1 - 5 years	2.17
6 - 15 years	0.73
16 - 65 years	30.44
66 and over	64.49
	<hr/>
	100.00%
	<hr/>

#### Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Measles	1
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	27
Scarlet Fever	15
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1
	<hr/>
	45
	<hr/>

#### Food Hygiene

The Public Health Inspector's report contains the necessary comments on this subject.

#### Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during 1958.

#### National Assistance Act

No action was taken under the above Act during 1958.

#### Smoking and Lung Cancer

It has not been proved that cigarette-smoking causes cancer of the lung but statisticians have shown that heavy smokers i.e. those who smoke twenty or more cigarettes a day for a number of years are more likely to develop lung cancer than are non-smokers. Many smokers claim they have smoked for twenty years or more and are perfectly healthy yet they may well be tempting fate for who knows when the disease will start to cause symptoms. Those who give up smoking now, immediately become less likely to suffer from lung cancer. It is for each and every one of us to decide for himself, but in making the decision we should bear in mind the risk we might be taking. Let us think of the young people. It is almost impossible to convince them that their habits of today may well determine their mode of death in the future. A new way of thinking is needed. It is not clever, grown-up or sophisticated to smoke, yet the number of school children who believe the opposite to be true gives cause for concern. The most important way to prevent young people from smoking is by example. Everyone who has his own welfare and that of young people at heart would be well-advised to give serious consideration to this subject.

# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

## Public Health Inspector's Report for the Year 1958

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1958.

Public Health Act.	Nuisances)								
Housing Act.	Disrepair)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	298
Ashes accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Accumulations	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22
Animals or birds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Bakehouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Cesspools	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Common lodging house	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Clean air	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Dairies.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	36
Drainage	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	45
Food Hygiene.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Fried fish shops and stalls.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27
Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Food preparing premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
General food premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Ice cream premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
Infectious diseases	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Interviews	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	263
Knackers yards	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Moveable dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Meat shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Overcrowding.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Pet animals act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Rats and mice (including sewers).	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	93
Slaughterhouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	741
Shops act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Sanitary accommodation.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Verminous premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Water supplies	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

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1,712

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The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under Public Health and Housing Acts.

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at the end of 1958</u>
<u>Drains</u>			
Blocked drains	6	5	1
<u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>			
Defective pail closet	1	1	-
<u>Verminous Infestation</u>			
Rats and mice	4	4	-
Fleas	2	2	-

C/fd.

13

12

1



	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at the end of 1958</u>
B/fd.	13	12	1
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective roof	6	5	1
" floorboards	1	1	-
" gutters	1	1	-
" chimney	1	-	1
" ceiling plaster	1	1	-
" walls	4	2	2
Accumulations	4	4	-
<u>Defects in shops</u>			
Defective brickwork	1	1	-
" sink	1	-	1
" plasterwork	1	-	1
" window	1	-	1
	35	27	8

Table of Notices served during 1958

	<u>Served during 1958</u>	<u>Complied with by 31.12.58</u>
Public Health and Housing Acts		
Verbal	12	10
Letter	15	12
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949		
Verbal	5	5
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955		
Letter	3	-
	35	27

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1958 the Council accepted one undertaking not to re-let, made seven Demolition Orders and twelve Closing Orders. Nine houses were demolished which included some Demolition Orders made during 1957. Thirteen families were re-housed by the Council and three families re-housed themselves during the year.

Twelve applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1958. Nine of these were issued and three refused.

DRAINAGE

During 1958 work continued on the subsidiary sewers and an encouraging start has been made on the conversion of vaults and pail closets in the areas already sewered.



## WATER SUPPLY

Extensions to the water mains were still being carried out during 1958 and where mains have been laid many new connections have been made to properties. It is tentatively hoped that the whole of the water schemes will be completed in the near future when many more families will benefit.

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- (3) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.
- (4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains. - (a) direct to house - 88%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 16 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings compared with 21 for the previous year. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued initially and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

## RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present 4 premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by Inspector Sherwood of the R.S.P.C.A. who has been appointed as Honorary Inspector, and myself.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The number of animals killed during the year at the three local slaughterhouses is as follows:- 6 cows, 9 calves, 810 other bovines, 1298 sheep, 3937 pigs and 204 goats giving a total of 6264, which was slightly in excess of the 1957 total of 6141. In order to inspect these animals a total of 741 visits was required to the three slaughterhouses and this figure includes 99 evening and week-end visits.

Mention must be made here of the consideration received from the slaughtermen and butchers whose co-operation does facilitate the easier working of a system of meat inspection.

I have been acting on behalf of the Ministry of Food under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the certification of pigs on a deadweight basis and it is interesting to note that during 1958 some 922 pigs were weighed and 392 certificates issued.

Twenty-three slaughterman's licences were issued during 1958.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:-  
 1 cow and 16 pigs - total 17 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 2 tons 9 qrs. 3 lbs. which is a decrease on the 1957 figure when the total was 2 tons 15 cwts. 5 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned  
from January 1st, 1958 to December 31st, 1958

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	810	6	9	1298	3937	-
Number inspected	810	6	9	1298	3937	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	1	-	-	14	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	24	2	-	-	29	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	2.96	50.00	-	-	1.09	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	45	2	-	-	50	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	5.55	33.33	-	-	1.32	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	5	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

## OTHER FOODS

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(1) <u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Liver	14	6
New potatoes	1624	-
Butter	81	-
Cheese	79	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1798	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(2) <u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>No. of tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Chopped pork	1	4	-
Corned beef	3	18	-
Ham	1	21	-
Luncheon meat	9	20	-
Tomato paste	40	13	12
Fruit	29	30	4
Peas	1		10
Tomatoes	8	16	3
Milk	1	2	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	93	126	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued 6 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk, 6 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 4 Dealer's Licences for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results as shown:-

### Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Satisfied Phosphatase Test	Failed both tests
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
26	24	25	-
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Methylene Blue Test was not carried out on 2 of the above samples because the atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F.



## Tuberculin Tested Milk

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
10	9	1

Five samples of Sterilised Milk were taken, all five satisfied the Turbidity Test.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

## Churn Rinses

During 1958, 15 samples of Churn Rinses have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. The following are the results:-

No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
15	7	1	7

It is interesting to note that a newer churn washing machine has been installed, possibly as a result of these samples, and the first three churn rinses taken from it were satisfactory.

In Circular 1/54 the Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	11
Grocery	28
Butchers	19
Fish shops	12
Bakehouses	5
Confectionery	17
Cafes & Restaurants	5
Mineral Water Premises	<u>1</u>
	98

In addition there are some 42 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream -	36
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages -	19
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips -	11
See page 9 for Milk Licences issued.	



- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary.

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 5 . Regretfully I must add that the food premises are not being inspected as regularly as they should be due principally to the amount of time spent on meat inspection and housing.

- (4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

No clean food guilds have been established.

- (5) the method of disposal of condemned food.

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by contractors for processing.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

The lists on page 9 show the total weight of food condemned.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.,) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Thirty-two samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
32	-	-	-	32

It will be observed that all of these samples were classified Grade 1. At the end of the year 36 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of iced lollies were taken during 1958.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

See answer to (3) above.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Three smoke observations have been taken under the Clean Air Act and in each case these observations were satisfactory.

One installation has also been approved under the Act.

## RATS AND MICE

The Agricultural Executive Committee has now relinquished any responsibility for the destruction of rats and mice in farm premises, but fortunately we have two local contractors, previously employed by the Ministry, who are now carrying out this work.

The refuse dumps are treated regularly and the sewers have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations laid down by the Ministry. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible and it has been intimated by letter that test baiting need not be carried out quite so frequently in the future.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 50 factories on the Council's register and 12 visits were made to them during 1958.

I have been appointed the responsible Officer for dealing with Means of Escape in case of Fire and it would appear that 6 of the above factories will require to be dealt with for this purpose. Visits have already been paid with the Fire Officer and the Factories Inspector but the Certificates have not yet been issued.

Form 572 has been completed and forwarded as requested in advance of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURTON.

Public Health Inspector.

12th June, 1959.



